AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently amended) A method of early diagnosis of diabetes in an individual, the method comprising the steps:
providing a biological sample in which glucose levels are within a normal range from said individual, ~~and~~
measuring the concentration of glycated insulin in the biological sample, and
indicating the presence of diabetes when ~~wherein~~ the ~~presence of~~ glycated insulin is at a concentration greater than a predetermined minimum of at least about 20 pmol/l ~~is indicative of the presence of diabetes~~.

3. (Currently amended) A method of determining a predisposition to diabetes in an individual, the method including the steps of:
providing a biological sample from said individual, ~~and~~
measuring the concentration of glycated insulin in the biological sample, and
indicating the predisposition to diabetes when ~~wherein~~ the ~~presence of~~ glycated insulin is at a concentration greater than a predetermined minimum of at least about 20 pmol/l ~~is indicative of predisposition to diabetes~~.

4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the concentration of glucose in the biological sample is within the normal range.

5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the normal range of glucose is less than 11.1 mmol/l in a random plasma sample.

6. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein said predetermined minimum concentration is the concentration of glycated insulin measured in a sample from the same individual at an earlier timepoint.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) An *in vitro* assay method for detecting diabetes or the predisposition to diabetes by determining the presence of glycated insulin in a biological sample, in which glucose levels are normal, said assay method comprising the steps:
providing a biological sample; ~~and~~
determining whether the concentration of glycated insulin in the biological sample is at least 20 pmol/l; and
indicating diabetes or predisposition to diabetes when glucose levels are normal and when ~~wherein~~ the ~~presence of~~ glycated insulin is at a concentration greater than 20 pmol/l ~~is indicative of diabetes or predisposition to diabetes~~.

12. (Previously presented) The method accordingly to claim 4 wherein the normal range of glucose is less than 11.1 mmol/l in a random plasma sample.

13. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 3 wherein said predetermined minimum concentration is the concentration of glycated insulin measured in a sample from the same individual at an earlier timepoint.

14. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 4 wherein said predetermined minimum concentration is the concentration of glycated insulin measured in a sample from the same individual at an earlier timepoint.

15. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 5 wherein said predetermined minimum concentration is the concentration of glycated insulin measured in a sample from the same individual at an earlier timepoint.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein glycated insulin in the sample is measured by means of radioimmunoassay.

21. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein glycated insulin in the sample is measured by means of radioimmunoassay.

22. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the normal range of glucose is less than 11.1 mmol/l in a random plasma sample.

23. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the normal range of glucose is less than 8 mmol/l in a random plasma sample.

24. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the normal range of glucose is less than 8 mmol/l in a random plasma sample.

25. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the normal range of glucose is less than 8 mmol/l in a random plasma sample.

26. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the normal range of glucose is less than 7.0 mmol/l in a fasting plasma sample.

27. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the normal range of glucose is less than 7.0 mmol/l in a fasting plasma sample.

28. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the normal range of glucose is less than 7.0 mmol/l in a fasting plasma sample.